When I first arrived at Gordon, Dr. Wheeler mentioned that he left three envelopes in the desk. He recommended I save them and open them one at a time when I ran into a problem I did not know how to solve.

Last fall, as the duties of the job were beginning to overwhelm me, I opened the first envelope. It said, “Blame the previous administration.” Great idea! Well that worked pretty well for a while. Eventually, I ran into more trouble, though, so I opened the second envelope. It said, “Reorganize.” Well Academic Affairs had just been restructured, so I brought in a consultant to develop a new Assessment process, began working with the Faculty Senate to update Statutes and delegate the work of developing a Faculty Handbook……. But of course that created a whole new set of problems. What should I do about all of the chaos that has ensued?

In desperation, I opened the third and final envelope. It said, “Prepare three envelopes.” Even Dr. Wheeler can’t help me now. Of course I am kidding, but I was reminded of this joke recently and took the liberty of adapting it. Shared governance is a complex dance that we must learn to negotiate. I am proud that Gordon State has engaged faculty and staff who care about the institution and our students. Because I know the level of dedication and wisdom we have among our employees, I am confident that Gordon State’s future is bright. We will survive budget cuts and even salary studies and statute revisions.

I met a group of students this morning who are entering our Fall Institute. As I mingled before the orientation began, I could sense that students and parents were both excited and anxious. As the faculty and staff were introduced to the students and their families, I was so proud to see the level of commitment of every employee in the room. There must have been at least one faculty or staff member for every student present. We are giving these students every chance to succeed, and I look forward to watching them graduate someday. I am very grateful for the hard work of the entire village that has worked to make this happen under the leadership of Dr. Steve Raynie.

On the other end of the spectrum, perhaps, was the recent Honors Night gathering. The students organized group games to play after dinner on the Alumni House patio, and it was great fun to see them engage with each other and with the faculty and staff present. We have some very talented students, who enrich the campus experience for all of us. Much of the credit for the Honors Program goes to Dr. David Janssen, but I know we all agree that the students themselves really make the program a success.

I also stopped by the Griffin Welcome Center this week to observe the first Weekend College information session. (see news release at the link below)

It was another heart-warming event. Again, we had many dedicated faculty and staff present, eager to welcome prospective adult learners and to answer their questions, to resolve their concerns. There were so many excited adults who expressed how happy they were to learn of this opportunity to complete their degrees.

This is why I have dedicated my life to higher education. I believe in the transformative power of education and I can’t imagine a better place or better people to work alongside. Thank you. Together, we are making a difference.
Provost Chats

Dr. Margaret Venable

A small group gathered for lunch in the private dining room this past week for informal conversations. In case you missed it, here are the next few opportunities to participate:

⇒ October 23 11:30am-1:00pm in the Private Dining Room
⇒ October 29 2:00-3:00pm in NAHS 123
⇒ November 4 3:30-4:30 pm in NAHS 123

Come and go as your schedules permit. I hope to see you soon!

End of Semester Faculty Meeting Date Confirmed

Please mark your calendars! The end of semester faculty meeting will be Wednesday, December 3 at 2 pm in Russell 211. If there are suggested items for the agenda, please contact Dr. Venable; the highlight of this meeting is always the vote on students for graduation.

Continuing Discussion of Study Abroad

Dr. Richard Baskin

Study Abroad Meetings, all faculty invited:

♦ Joe Eyles presented his ideas for a study abroad program in France on Monday, October 6, to faculty. Attendees enjoyed a productive conversation.
♦ Richard Baskin will lead a general discussion on study abroad programs at GSC, Monday, October 27, from 2:00-3:00pm in NAHS 123 (the Collaborative Learning Room).

If you run OR would like to run a study abroad program, please try to make this important conversation. All experience, all ideas are welcome and needed!

Teaching Online or Hybrid Courses: If you are interested in teaching an online or hybrid course, speak to your department head or dean and contact Caesar Perkowski, chair of the Distance Education Committee. Your department/school has representation on the committee, and you may have questions that you want to direct to your representative. Membership includes Susan Glenn, Cortney Grubbs, Brenda Johnson, Masoud Nourizadeh, Christina Quinn, Steven Raynie, Autumn Schaffer, and Marwan Zabdawi.

Updates from the Department of Biology

Dr. Mustapha Durojaiye

Dr. Linda Hyde and members of EarthWindFire (the Science Club) performed their annual canoeing cleanup of the Flint River on September 27.
New from the Department of Business and Public Service

Dr. Barry Kicklighter

The Department of Business and Public Service has been active in launching Weekend College@Gordon State, the new bachelor of science degree program in Human Services. Designed for adult learners who are balancing careers, family, and other responsibilities, Weekend College will hold its first courses at the McDonough campus in Henry County this spring. Faculty teaching in the Spring are Dr. James Awbrey, Dr. Brenda Johnson, Dr. Pam Terry, and Dr. Adria Goldman. Dr. Joe Mayo will present academic skills workshops for the first cohort of adult learners, and Autumn Shaffer will guide new students in use of D2L technology at an extended orientation Jan. 3. The first InfoNight@Griffin on Sept. 30, attended by more than a dozen prospective students, generated applications from a variety of adults employed in public service and local government. More than 25 students have expressed strong interest in attending Weekend College. Events in October include: InfoNight@McDonough (Oct. 7), WKEU’s “Good Morning Griffin” radio program with Arts and Sciences Dean and BPS faculty member Dr. Jeff Knighton (Wednesday, Oct. 8, 10 AM), and presentations to the Family Connection collaboratives (Spalding County with intern Mary Browning, Oct. 8, and Henry County with program coordinator Dr. Melinda Hawley, Oct. 28).

William Brent Carper, Ph.D., CPA, CGMA has received notification that his paper “Global Business: A Cultural Perspective” has been accepted in the peer-reviewed Journal of Applied Business and Economics. Dr. Carper presented the paper at the National Business and Economics Society (NBES) Annual Conference in Hawaii this past March. The paper explains how vital it is that senior executives of Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) be able to move from subsidiary to subsidiary around the globe in quest of continued accomplishments and successes in spite of overriding challenges. These executives must possess essential cross-cultural skills to promptly relate to other firm personnel, as well as have the ability to size-up situations quickly. They must quickly earn the respect and trust of others, in order to acquire timely information that is valid and reliable, for decision-making purposes. It is imperative that global executives readily ADAPT to other cultures, not ADOPT them.

On September 11, students from the Human Services Club prepared, delivered, and served breakfast at the Lamar County Family Connection Collaborative. This organization serves as the local decision-making body, bringing community partners together to develop, implement, and evaluate plans that address the serious challenges facing our children, families and community. This is the second consecutive year that the club has shown GSC’s appreciation for the community service performed by these citizens. Pictured are members Kathy Davis, Malissa Allen, Bridget Ingram, and Julianna Cooper.

Along with Dr. Christy Flatt, Gordon State students, Katherine Davis, Preston Allen, and Samantha Mena, traveled to UGA’s Special Collections Library on Friday, September 26 to research documents for the Georgia Sociological Association. The research results will be presented at the next Georgia Sociological Association during the business meeting.
Dr. Erica Johnson (front row, center) gave a presentation on Inca Mummies for sixth graders at Lamar County Middle School on Wednesday, September 17, 2014. Justin Gunnels (front row, left), a History Certification major at GSC currently student teaching for sixth graders at Lamar County Middle School, invited Dr. Johnson to speak in his Social Studies class. The students sent Dr. Johnson a thank you poster with notes and pictures referencing what they learned.

One September 8, 2014, Dr. Jeff Rogers gave a presentation to GSC students on a study abroad opportunity in Greece in the summer of 2015.

The Department of History & Political Science hosted an informational session with Shane Bell regarding internships at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) at Atlanta on Tuesday, September 23, 2014. The NARA in Atlanta holds 180,000 cubic feet of archival materials from 1716 to the 1980s. Volunteer internships are available for undergraduate students of all fields each semester, and students can earn course credit at GSC for these internships.
Updates from the Department of Humanities

Dr. Ed Whitelock

Two of Dr. Cortney Grubbs’ poems, “Buffers” and “To Grandmother: An Unsent Letter,” will appear in the upcoming issue of Eyedrum Periodically. The poems should be viewable around the middle of October at the link below.

Eyedrum Periodically

Dr. Wesley Venus and Dr. Mark King submitted a successful proposal for an Affordable Learning Textbook Transformation Grant from the University System of Georgia. Theirs was one of 30 grants awarded from among 48 proposals representing 18 institutions.

Dr. Darren Broome had his article “New Approaches to Assimilating Spanish Pronouns” published in the Journal of the Tennessee Foreign Languages Teaching Association.

News from the Department of Math and Physical Science

Dr. Nolan McMurray

Dr. Henry Gore served as an AP (Advanced Placement) Reader in Calculus for the Educational Testing Service and the College Board in Kansas City, Missouri, June 2014.

Dr. Richard Schmude gave a talk to the Atlanta Astronomy Club on September 20 about the Developments on Mars in 2014. Dr. Schmude also published the paper “ALPO Observations of Jupiter During the 2011-2012 Apparition” in the Journal of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers, Volume 56, No. 4, pp. 46-64 (2014).

Dr. Marwan Zabdawi attended Pearson’s Statistics Workshop, “Forum for Always Innovating” at the Atlanta Hilton on September 12, 2014. Additionally, with Dr. Zabdawi’s tutelage, four Engineering students submitted the abstract “Global Warming,” which has been accepted for presentation at the 2014 Regional Undergraduate Research Symposium, October 30, 2014 at Albany State University in Albany, Georgia.

Welcome to Gordon State College

Dr. Sonya Gaither received the GLA Team Award along with four other librarians from USG institutions. This award honors a team that has excelled in the past year by offering innovative programming or services, performing or acting on assessment activities, undertaking a successful outreach or promotion effort, or providing outstanding support of a Georgia library. The inaugural Southeastern Library Assessment Conference was held in 2013 at the Georgian Terrace Hotel in Atlanta, GA for a day and a half of workshops on topics related to library assessment research and practices. The planning committee has started planning for the 2015 conference. Details will be forthcoming.

Please meet Sherri Gooch. She has just joined the Human Resource Department; most recently working for Georgia Southern University. Sherri is a graduate of Georgia Southern and worked with the PGA and taught school before beginning her career in Human Resource Management. She has worked with Enterprise Holdings, as a corporate Group Human Resource Manager for 18 years before moving back to Statesboro to transition into higher education Human Resource Management. She is excited about her recent move to the Griffin area and the opportunity at Gordon State College continuing in higher education Human Resource Management. Sherri will be handling benefits administration, training and development, and other new projects as they arise.
Weekend College @ Gordon State

Dr. Jeff Knighton

Prospective students for Weekend College@Gordon State, the new bachelor of science degree program in Human Services, are expressing excitement and gratitude for the opportunity to earn a college degree while working full time and balancing family and other activities. One comment, representative of many sent by adults who emailed the program, was written by a long-term staff member in human services: "I cannot move up in my field professionally until I receive my degree. I am thankful for finding your program."

Housed in the department of Business and Public Service, Weekend College is drawing adults from a wide variety of occupations and stages of life. At InfoNight@Griffin Sept. 30, a dozen adults signed a prospective student interest sheet; many submitted applications or took them home, and others asked for additional forms for interested work colleagues. Coordinator Dr. Melinda Hawley estimates that between 25 and 30 adults have expressed interest in attending the cohort program, which begins in Spring 2015. Students will take four half-semester classes, meeting one weekend per month at Gordon State’s McDonough campus and completing the remainder of the coursework online. Members of the first cohort will include staff of local Department of Family and Children’s Services offices, local government, fire fighter units, and other public service areas. Faculty include Dr. James Awbrey, Dr. Brenda Johnson, and Dr. Pam Terry from BPS, and Dr. Adria Goldman from Communication.

The second cohort will begin the program in Fall Semester 2015. In addition to the unique hybrid structure, the program offers prior learning credit to students whose on-the-job work and training provided intensive substance and learning that was equivalent to credit-bearing college coursework. Ms. Tonya Moore, Adult Learning coordinator, will conduct Prior Learning Assessments for adults enrolled in Weekend College.

Weekend College@Gordon State began as a collaboration of President Max Burns and Griffin Fire Chief Tommy Jones, a passionate advocate for continuing education for fire fighters and other public service and emergency management professionals. During the 2013-2014 academic year, Chief Jones worked with Dr. Jeff Knighton (BPS department chair, now interim dean of Arts and Sciences) and sociology professor Dr. Christy Flatt to build a conceptual framework for the program. In summer 2014, aware of increasing interest among DFCS workers to advance to supervisory positions by earning college degrees, Dr. Knighton and Dr. Hawley expanded the program to include all adults interested in launching or advancing a career in the rapidly growing field of Human Services. Dr. Jennifer Porter, part-time faculty in BPS and county director of Monroe County DFCS, shared the good news about Weekend College with local DFCS staff.

Adults who graduate with a Human Services degree will have varied employment opportunities in a rapidly growing field. Diverse career paths from the National Organization for Human Services include "group homes and halfway houses; correctional, intellectual disability, and community mental health centers; family, child, and youth service agencies, and programs concerned with alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence, and aging. The primary purpose of the human services professional is to assist individual and communities to function as effectively as possible in the major domains of living." The U.S. Department of Labor predicts that between 2012 to 2022, employment of social and community services managers will increase by 21 percent, which is faster than average for all occupations.

Gordon State staff members who are interested in earning a bachelor’s degree in Human Services through the Weekend College@Gordon State program are welcome to contact Dr. Melinda Hawley at mhawley@gordonstate.edu or weekend-college@gordonstate.edu. The program has a Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/gordonweekendcollege.
Congratulations to Dr. Wesley Venus and Dr. Mark King who have been awarded an Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grant in the No-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials category. Dr. Venus and Dr. King have proposed to produce a low-/no-cost Composition handbook to replace costly publisher versions. They anticipate a total annual savings of $142,333.75 for students enrolled in English 1101. They also anticipate an increase in the student pass rate for English 1101. Congratulations are also due Dr. Whitelock, Dr. Knighton, and Dr. Venable for encouraging and supporting this proposal.

Another opportunity for submitting ALG grant proposals will be announced in spring. Information on the proposal process may be accessed at the link below:

You may subscribe to the ALG newsletter at http://eepurl.com/Q6ywL.

The Gordon State College ALG Campus Champion is Dr. Phillip Jen and the ALG Library Coordinator is Brenda Rutherford.
New at Hightower Library

Dr. Sonya Gaither

Please help the Hightower Library staff congratulate and celebrate our own Beth Pye for her Buggy Days window decoration that won Gordon State College second place. The display was in DB’s Pizza. Professor Pye was also recognized in the latest issue of the President’s Report. We would also like for you to join in the excitement as we begin the renovation project. Professor Brenda Rutherford and Dr. Sonya Gaither attended the first kickoff meeting with representatives from Houser Walker Architecture along with other members of the renovation advisory team. The team shared with the architects our vision of what we believe the library should look like and how it should function. Be on the lookout for upcoming dates and times for the campus community to share your ideas that will help inform the decision making process of this exciting and important project. Also, remember you have the opportunity to provide input on your library by completing an online survey. Please remember to share this link with your students.

Have you been to the library lately? If not, we’d love to see you. Better yet, we’d love to assist you with your research needs or class assignments. Thank you to Biology, Business & Public Service, Fine Arts, Humanities, and Nursing for submitting their Fall course syllabi to us. This will allow us to help your students with your course requirements. It is not too late to submit syllabi if your department or school would like to participate. We look forward to working with you each semester to ensure we’re providing the necessary resources to support your programs.

While you are seeking research assistance or having a library orientation session with us, please visit our repurposed reading and lounge area on the first floor which is now designated for eating light snacks and drinking your favorite beverage. The current food and drink policy remain enforce for second floor and around computers. We look forward to seeing you in your library real soon!

The State Charitable Contribution Program

The State Charitable Contribution Committee is pleased to announce the return of the VIP Parking. Raffle tickets will be sold for $2. There will be three winners: faculty, staff, and student. More detail will be sent out soon."

Gordon Gives

Thanks to your generosity, the Gordon Gives Program has collected $1,117.00 (as of 9/30/14)! Go Gordon!

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